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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03964 162105Z

73-60
ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 AS-01 /011 W
---------- 014119
R 161930Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
INFO RUESVA/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 2301
SECSTATE WASHDC 8354

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3964

LIMDIS

FOR STATE: THIS TEL IS TO INFORM YOU WE ARE PASSING SUBJ TEL TO PAN.

FOR PANAMA:FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DEPT OCT 16 REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFO:
QUOTE:
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS
SUBJECT: VESCO TO MEET MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY

1. MORNING PRESS OCTOBER 15, CARRIED BRIEF STORY
OUT OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY ABOUT UPCOMING
INTERVIEW THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 OF ROBERT VESCO BY
MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY MARIO CHARPENTIER. INTERVIEW
IS OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS THAT VESCO
HAS ILLEGALLY BROUGHT ARMS INTO COSTA RICA. PRESS
ARTICLES NOT THAT MINISTER HAS COPY OF JACKSON
COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT AND THAT REPORTERS WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO KNOW WHAT RESULTS THE INTERVIEW YIELDS.

2. IN ANOTHER PRESS ITEM CARRIED OCTOBER 13, CHARPENTIER
REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD DELIVER A FULL REPORT THIS WEEK
TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT AND REPEATED HIS
WARNING OF LAST WEEK THAT IF HIS INVESTIGATION
INDICATES VESCO IS GUILTY, "...I WILL BE THE FIRST
TO REQUEST HIS EXPULSION FROM THE COUNTRY."
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3. IN THE MEANTIME, SAN JOSE IS ALIVE WITH RUMORS
THAT VESCO IS LOOKING FOR A SAFER HAVEN.
ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY, VESCO'S LAWYER, ANTONIO ROBLES,
HAS MADE SEVERAL TRIPS TO PANAMA IN RECENT WEEKS
PRESUMABLY TO TRY TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS
CLIENT TO MOVE. THIS IS SAID TO BE PART OF A RETREAT STRATEGY THAT
ROBLES HAS BEEN WORKING ON FOR VESCO SINCE HE
ADVISED HIM A MONTH OR SO AGO THAT EVEN IF A
FAVORABLE EXTRADITION BILL BECOMES LAW SOMETHING
ELSE WILL SURELY FOLLOW AND EVENTUALLY HE WILL BE FORCED TO
LEAVE COSTA RICA.

4. COMMENT: THE HIGH PUBLICITY GIVEN THE
OCTOBER 17TH CHARPENTIER/VESCO INTERVIEW, TOGETHER
WITH THE GROWING INTENSITY OF THE VESCO DEPARTURE
RUMORS, SUGGEST THAT ODUBER MIGHT BE PLANNING
TO MOVE AGAINST VESCO. IT WOULD NOT SEEM THAT
MINISTER CHARPENTIER WOULD WANT TO BOOST HIS ROLE
IN THE INVESTIGATION OF VESCO'S ACTIVITIES IF ONLY
TO CONCLUDE--INCREDULOUSLY IN FACE OF THE SPATE
OF PRESS STORIES--THAT VESCO WAS GUILTLESS.
NEITHER IS CHARPENTIER HIS OWN MAN IN MATTERS OF THIS
WEIGHT. THERE SEEM TO BE THREE ALTERNATIVES:
(1) FIGUERES AND VESCO HAVE HAD A FALLING OUT AND
DON PEPE IS NO LONGER WILLING TO BACK
IN VIEW OF BUILDING PRESSURES;
(2) ODUBER HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO BITE THE BULLET,
DESPITE FIGUERES' OBJECTIONS, AND EXPEL HIM; OR
(3) CHARPENTIER WILL AGAIN DECIDE VESCO HAS
BROKEN NO COSTA RICAN LAW AND AS LONG AS HE DOES
NOT HE CAN REMAIN IN COSTA RICA.
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ISecure: 1
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